

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for connecting electrical components comprising;
  - a) a plug having a generally box-like configuration;
  - b) a plug terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said plug terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said plug;
  - c) a cap having a generally box-like configuration; and
  - d) a cap terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said cap terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said cap;
  - e) wherein, when the plug is mated to the cap, the plug, the cap, the plug terminal position assurance element and the cap terminal position assurance element interlock to form a box-in- box-in-box-in-box construction, wherein said plug terminal position assurance element comprises cutaways which mate with at least one corresponding key and at least one corresponding rail on the cap.
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[3]] 1, wherein said plug comprises cutaways which mate with said at least one corresponding key and said at least one corresponding rail on said cap.
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the cap terminal position assurance element comprises [[a]] the projection that contacts the deflectable finger to prevent said the deflectable finger from deflecting.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the plug terminal position assurance element comprises [[a]] the projection that contacts the deflectable finger to prevent said the deflectable finger from deflecting.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plug further comprises a detent which cooperates with a slot on the plug terminal position assurance element to retain said plug terminal position assurance element in position.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said detent comprises a two stage detent.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cap further comprises a detent which cooperates with a slot on the cap terminal position assurance element to retain said cap terminal position assurance element in position.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said detent comprises a two stage detent.

14. (currently amended) An apparatus for connecting electrical components comprising~~[[;]]~~:

a) a plug having a generally box-like configuration, said plug comprising at least one cavity adapted to receive and retain an electrical terminal therein, said at least one cavity comprising a deflectable locking finger and a rib which cooperate to retain the electrical terminal in the cavity;

b) a plug terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said plug terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said plug;

c) a cap having a generally box-like configuration;

d) a cap terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said cap terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said cap;

e) wherein, when the plug is mated to the cap, the plug, the cap, the plug terminal position assurance element and the cap terminal position assurance element interlock to form a

box-in- box-in-box-in-box construction, wherein one of the plug and cap terminal position assurance elements comprise a projection that contacts the deflectable finger to prevent the deflectable finger from deflecting.

15. (currently amended) An apparatus for connecting electrical components comprising[[;]]:

- a) a plug having a generally box-like configuration;
- b) a plug terminal position assurance-element having a generally box-like configuration, said plug terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said plug, said plug further comprising a detent which cooperates with a slot on the plug terminal position assurance element to retain said plug terminal position assurance-element in position;
- c) a cap having a generally box-like configuration[[;]], said cap further comprising a detent which cooperates with a slot on the cap terminal position assurance element to retain said cap terminal position assurance element in position, at least one of said detent of said plug and said detent of said cap comprising a two stage detent;
- d) a cap terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said cap terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said cap;
- e) wherein, when the plug is mated to the cap, the plug, the cap, the plug terminal position assurance element and the cap terminal position assurance-element interlock to form a box-in- box-in-box-in-box construction.

16. (currently amended) An apparatus for connecting electrical components comprising[[;]]:

- a) a plug having a generally box-like configuration;
- b) a plug terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said plug terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said plug;
- c) a cap having a generally box-like configuration;

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Attorney Docket No.: 17903 (AT 20958-65)

- d) a cap terminal position assurance element having a generally box-like configuration, said cap terminal position assurance element being structured to fit at least partially within said cap, said cap terminal position assurance element comprising cutaways that mate with at least one corresponding key and at least one corresponding rail on said cap;
- e) wherein, when the plug is mated to the cap, the plug, the cap, the plug terminal position assurance element and the cap terminal position assurance element interlock to form a box-in- box-in-box-in-box construction.